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## BUREAU OF LABOR KNOCKED OUT

**SENATOR BUCKMAN PUTS BILL OF ORGANIZED LABOR DOWN AND OUT—BOARD OF HEALTH BILL HELD OVER—BILL FOR DETAILED REPORT OF STATE OFFICERS PASSED OVER GOVERNOR'S VETO.**

Organized labor got its dose in the Senate yesterday, when the bill to create a Commissioner of a Bureau of Labor was defeated by a vote of 18 nays to 7 yeas.

Senator Zim, introducer of the measure, fought valiantly for it, but his argument in its favor was crushed by the debate of Senators Buckman and Humphries and the legal opinion rendered by Senator Henderson, together with the fact that a majority of the Senate was opposed to it anyway.

Senator Cone spoke for the bill feelingly and urged its passage, but he, too, might as well have left his words unsaid.

Senator Buckman was stripped for the fray; the flower that usually adorns his coat lapel had been laid aside that excess baggage might not add to his debate.

Then putting on the mitts, he neatly jabbed the bill with—"I am opposed to it for many reasons; principally, because I can see no good in it."

He followed this up with a series of short drives that soon had the bill hanging over the ropes. He declared he could see but one good thing in it, and that was statistics of the employed and unemployed, especially the latter.

Senator Buckman said that it seemed to him that all the labor statistics covered by the bill were already provided for by the national act, and more fully than under the proposed State law. He cited several "dangerous" provisions he had discovered, then quickly side-stepped to the "invasion of the private home," picturing a woeful scene of how, under the provisions of the bill, a man's kitchen might be entered and his servant or servants questioned by the commissioner or his deputies.

In discussing labor questions, Senator Buckman seems unable to rise above culinary politics. When he harangued over the child labor bill the other day his chief concern was how to get meats, fish (Steve Melton might have suggested a way to get this latter article of diet if he had been in a joint debate), fruits, bread, rolls, groceries, delivered for breakfast if the age limit for child labor were placed at fourteen years. So yesterday he became wrought up over the awful fear that a cook or other domestic might be annoyed if a Bureau of Labor were established.

He had the bill down and out when he propounded this question: "Has the State so far progressed as to overturn fundamental laws?" But Senator Humphries, who had second call to punch the now weakened and discredited bill, led out his right with the assertion that the "Commissioner of Labor" to supersede Sheriffs and other peace officers, and that he would be "nosing" into the business of everybody.

"It was a reflection upon officers of this State," he said, "to think of the creation of such an officer. I think we have bureaus and departments enough in this State."

More upon the same line, and expense of carrying out the provisions of the bill, was said by Senator Humphries, and then he was succeeded by Senator Henderson.

The Senate braced itself to be electrified, when it saw the Senator from the Eighth brace himself against his desk, as he slowly arose to administer the drop kick that would land the bill in the cul-de-sac.

From the attitude of the Senator, it was seen that a legal opinion, overwhelming in its force, was to be uttered.

It came, fresh as the dew upon the satin petal of the rose, as mighty as the wave that tosses the giant vessel upon the beach.

It was: "There is no law on the statute books to compel a man to work where he is not satisfied."

Only one other saying of record in this State is entitled to be accorded a place in the class with this able legal opinion.

That was the suggestion of a certain official of the Florida East Coast Railway in reply to a committee of pineapple growers who were protesting against the high freight rates: "If you are not satisfied," he said, "roll your pineapples up to Jacksonville in a wheelbarrow and ship them by the Clyde Line."

On the roll call Senator Adams said he "was in sympathy with the bill, but it went too far," so he voted no. The yeas were—Mr. President, Senators Beard, Cone, Hudson, Jackson, Trammell, Zim—7.

Nays—Senators Adams, Alford, Baker, Broome, Buckman, Canova, Crews, Crill, Davis, Henderson, Humphries, McCreary, Massey, Neel, Sams, West of 1st, West of 4th—17.

Senate Bill No. 20, by Senator West of the 4th, one of the most despotic measures ever introduced in any Legislature, which gives unlimited power to the State Board of Health, was ready for passage, when Senator Zim objected, asking for further consideration.

"You can't give the Board of Health too much power," cried Senator West of the 4th, as he rushed to the defense of his pet bill, and explained the benefit to be conferred upon the citizens of the State if enacted.

Senator Massey said, in reply, that time should be

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## ACCOUNTANT GOES TO WORK ON BOOKS

**INVESTIGATION OF INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT FUND BEGAN YESTERDAY, WHEN EXPERT FROM NEW YORK TOOK UP EXAMINATION OF RECORDS.**

Effort to secure a statement from Senator Buckman, chairman of the committee to investigate the Internal Improvement Fund, was unavailing.

Three representatives of THE SUN called on the Senator three different times to get information concerning



HUMPHRIES AND FAULKNER,

Two Modern St. Georges, After the Rum Demon.

the investigation, but to each Mr. Buckman said he could not talk; and to the last, who asked him if an accountant had been placed at work on the Internal Improvement records, he refused to affirm or deny the report.

To one representative Mr. Buckman said that the sessions of the committee were secret, and information would not be given out until the committee was ready to so do. He said no specified time for holding meetings had been arranged, leaving the inference that it would meet when called by the chairman.

When asked why executive sessions were held, Mr. Buckman said: "The committee decided to do it."

While Senator Buckman was refusing to answer what the committee was doing, Indian information let one of the cats out of the bag tied with the executive string, and a visit to the Comptroller's office located the escaped feline.

There, Mr. C. D. Martin, from the firm of Haskins & Sells, certified public accountants, of 30 Broad street, New York, was at work on the records of the Internal Improvement Fund Trustees.

Mr. Martin, when asked if he was employed by the investigating committee, answered that he was not permitted to say. Indeed, he was not privileged to say whether he was a public accountant, or whether he was working, or if he was in Tallahassee.

Senator Buckman had so closely tied Mr. Martin's tongue that he was unable to say either yes or no.

Yesterday morning Mr. Buckman brought Mr. Martin into the office of the Comptroller, introduced him, and said that he had been employed to examine the records of the Trustees, and that it was the wish of the investigating committee that every aid to the work be given him.

The services of Mr. McIntosh, secretary of the Internal Improvement Board, were at once placed at the disposal of Mr. Martin, and books and papers of the Trustees were brought out for examination, and the job of investigation was on.

Mr. Buckman and the other six members of the committee have succeeded in keeping one secret that the public would like to have told—why it was deemed necessary to GO SO FAR ABROAD for an expert accountant!

Under an act of 1905 a State Board of Accountancy was created, to consist of three members. The duties of this Board are to examine all candidates who wish to become certified public accountants. Naturally, membership on this Board is a guarantee of ability, and the question is being asked why the members of this Board were overlooked when an accountant was needed by the investigating committee.

The members of this Board are G. R. DeSaussure and Walter Mucklow of Jacksonville, and E. I. Matthews of Carrabelle. Besides these, there are other expert accountants in Florida, among them being H. G. Hutchinson and Fred E. Rankin of Jacksonville, who are known throughout the State.

Besides, there is the fact of additional and unnecessary expense incurred by the committee in bringing an accountant from New York. Itemized this would run about as follows:

Railroad fare, New York to Jacksonville, \$29.15; Pullman, \$6.50; meals en route, \$5; Pullman porter, \$1; time consumed in traveling, two days at \$15 per day, \$30; a total of \$69.65.

This was done in the secrecy of executive session.

## RESOLUTION FOR OPEN SESSIONS

**OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT FUND, OFFERED IN HOUSE—HOT DEBATE OVER WATSON'S PRIMARY BILL—DISCUSSION OF GRAMMAR.**

Soon after the House convened yesterday, Mr. McKenzie of Putnam offered a concurrent resolution "relative to the joint committee to investigate the Internal Improvement Fund being instructed by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, to hold no executive session, but to hold all sessions open to the public."

In the House yesterday the proceedings, in part, partook of an educational nature. There was a discussion as to grammatical construction, a humorous tilt as to pronunciation and an elaborate discourse in nature study.

When Mr. Dufont's bill No. 110 came up, relative to the protection of loggerhead and green turtles on the coasts of the State of Florida during the months of May, June, July and August, the scene in natural history was brought about by Mr. Willis of Levy, who began by saying that it seemed to him that everything in the State was being protected except the people, and Mr. Malone said he wanted the bill so that the people could enjoy the luxury of turtle eggs, because if the eggs were not gathered and allowed to hatch the baby turtles would take to the sea and migrate to the Caribbean sea waters, and others would have the benefit, while the people of the State would be deprived of the turtle egg luxury.

Mr. Parkinson of Volusia, who considered it an important bill to the people of the Florida coasts, further elucidated by saying that the turtles were slow breeders and got to be very old, some of them estimated at 800 years of age, and that but few of the eggs were ever hatched, owing to the fondness of bears, wild animals and man for turtle eggs.

Further information was given, for the benefit of the passage of the bill, that it was to keep the turtles from being killed when out of water and thus becoming entirely extinct, as they only came ashore to lay their eggs.

Mr. Malone introduced an amendment, that the effect of the bill should not apply to the waters of the Gulf coast, and Mr. Dufont moved the amendment lay on the table.

Mr. Willis argued that the practice was to lay the turtles on their backs all day long in the hot sun and at night to turn them over and watch them until the eggs were laid, an unnecessary torture. Other information was to the effect that the turtles were killed and the eggs taken from them rather than hunt for the eggs, a very cruel and unwarranted proceeding. Some voice from the House mentioned that the matter should come up before the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and finally the Malone amendment was laid on the table. The bill was passed with three votes recorded against its passage.

The bill of Mr. Baggett of Escambia, House Bill No. 58, precipitated a discussion of grammatical construction, "present tense," "past present tense," and others being intensely handled by Mr. Farris, who had an amendment to change the word "be" to the words "have been" and by Mr. Reese, who wanted it to be "be" and not "have been." It might "have been" if it had not been decided, on vote, that the amendment of Mr. Farris "be" laid on the table.

The pronunciation of the word "are" by Chief Reader Mr. Walker (pronounced "air" by him), was not fully clear to several members of the House, and calls of "What's that?" "What's that word?" were sternly answered by Mr. Walker with emphasis,

"AIR!"

"What?"

"Air."

"Oh, he means are."

"You say 'AH,'" said Mr. Walker, "but I say 'AIR,'" at which there was a good, general all-round laugh in which Mr. Walker heartily joined.

All this occurred in the consideration of an amendment to the primary election bill of Mr. Watson of Dade.

For a time it looked as if the House would have a session equivalent in length to two sessions, this following after the record of the day previous, when the House emphatically decided not to have two sessions a day—at least, for the present. It was the primary election bill of Mr. Watson of Dade which caused the House to linger until nearly 1:30 p. m.

A few minutes after 1 o'clock Mr. Wilson of Hernando called attention to the time and moved adjournment, which was lost on the strong plea of Mr. Watson to dispose of the bill on account of its importance.

Mr. Faulkner of Taylor said his only objection to the bill was everything after the word "committee" on line 18, Section 22, which he wished stricken out by an amendment.

Mr. Reese said that on the second reading of the bill quite a number of amendments had been offered and the bill, he thought, was one of the most objectionable before the House.

Mr. Watson arose and said that Mr. Reese was out of order, as he was not talking to the amendment. In continuation, he said that Mr. Faulkner should not object, as the part which he wished to strike out really gave a contestant further privilege to go into court.

Mr. Reese followed, saying that the bill was a vast departure from any rule in reference to contests in the Democratic party; that it meant a most serious objection, and that it seemed to him that this was an unjust regulation because it placed it beyond the reach of the

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